

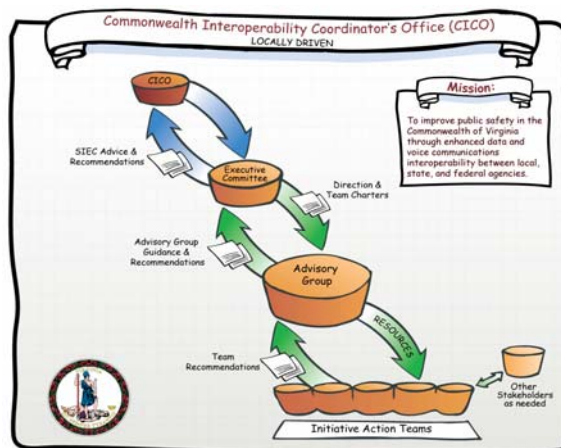
Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office

The Governor's Office of Commonwealth Preparedness

The Office of Commonwealth Preparedness was first created by Governor Warner's Executive Order 07 (02), continued by Executive Order 69 (04), and is responsible for translating vision into reality by synchronizing actions, both public and private, and by insuring that financial resources are being expended on shared statewide preparedness goals.

The Office's role is one of policy, coordination, leadership and resource allocation between agencies of state government entrusted with public safety and security responsibilities. The Office serves as a direct liaison between the Governor and Virginia's local governments and first responders on issues of emergency preparedness. It helps educate the public on homeland security issues and responds to inquiries for support and guidance.

The CICO reports directly to the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness and facilitates the development of the state's overarching strategy for communications interoperability.



The Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator's Office (CICO) is responsible for the coordination of daily operations of Virginia's interoperability efforts including ensuring that the Strategic Plan for Statewide Interoperable Communications is implemented and updated each year. The CICO works closely with the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), the State Interoperability Advisory Group (Advisory Group), and other public safety practitioners, experts and stakeholders to provide direction and management to the effort.

Recognizing that communications interoperability spans multiple disciplines and scenarios, the CICO provides overarching collaboration that spans all public safety and state agencies. The CICO and its project management office build consensus among disparate public safety disciplines, provide a conduit directly to the Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group and the Governor's Office, manages the knowledge and work products of the effort, and facilitates key practitioner meetings to keep the effort focused on practitioners and their needs while not allowing one discipline to dominate the effort.

Since the inception of the CICO in 2004, Chris Essid has been the Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator. As CIC, Mr. Essid has worked to solidify the effort, the CICO and the SIEC to ensure interoperable communications remains in the forefront and the Commonwealth continues to work towards its 2015 vision.

The Commonwealth Strategic Plan for Statewide Interoperable Communications

The Statewide Plan is the guiding document for all interoperable communications activities. Virginia Code mandates the annual update of the Plan and statewide compliance to the Plan by 2015. The CICO provides oversight for the update of the plan through facilitating key stakeholder sessions and for the implementation of the plan by setting up and providing a liaison to Initiative Action Teams.

For more information: <http://www.interoperability.publicsafety.virginia.gov/index.cfm> or

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